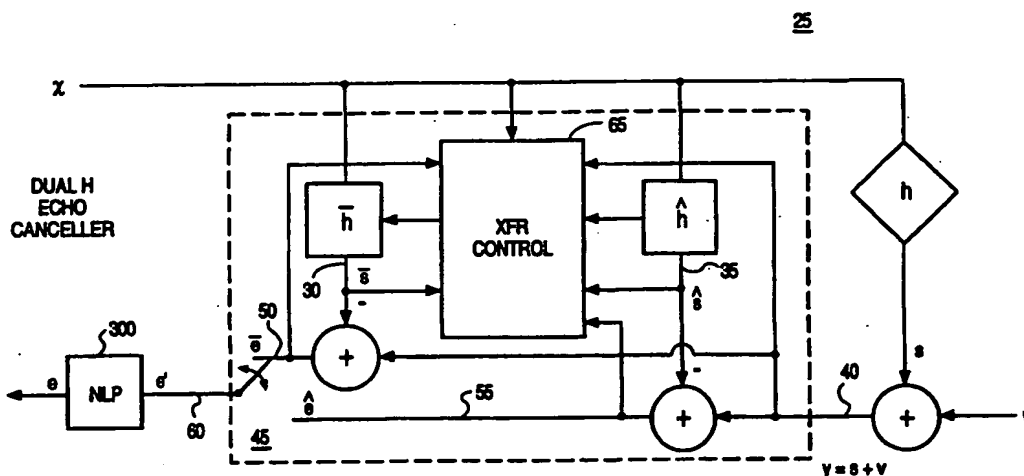




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04M 9/00, H03B 3/20	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/26400
		(43) International Publication Date: 27 May 1999 (27.05.99)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/24212</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 13 November 1998 (13.11.98)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 08/970,230 14 November 1997 (14.11.97) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): TELLABS OPERATIONS, INC. [US/US]; 4951 Indiana Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LABERTEAUX, Kenneth, P. [US/US]; 609 E. Oakside Street, South Bend, IN 46614 (US). YOUNCE, Richard, C. [US/US]; 64878 County Road 3, Wakarush, IN 46573 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agents: JARVIS, Lawrence, M. et al.; McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd., Suite 3400, 500 W. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60661 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>

(54) Title: ECHO CANCELLER EMPLOYING DUAL-H ARCHITECTURE HAVING IMPROVED COEFFICIENT TRANSFER



(57) Abstract

An echo canceler circuit (25) for use in an echo canceller system is set forth. The echo canceler circuit (25) comprises a first digital filter (35) having non-adaptive tap coefficients to simulate an echo response occurring during a call. A second digital filter (30) having adaptive tap coefficients to simulate an echo response occurring during the call is also used. The adaptive tap coefficients of the second digital filter (30) are updated over the duration of the call. A coefficient transfer controller is disposed in the echo canceller circuit (25) to transfer the adaptive tap coefficients of the second digital filter to replace the tap coefficients of the first digital filter when a value, $E^{(+)}$, is greater than a value $E^{(-)}$, and concurrently, when $E^{(+)}$ is greater than a value, $E^{(sub\ max)}$. The value of $E^{(-)}$ corresponds to the ratio between the signal-plus-echo signal and a second echo compensated signal using the second digital filter.

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION
ECHO CANCELLER EMPLOYING DUAL-H ARCHITECTURE
HAVING IMPROVED COEFFICIENT TRANSFER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The following applications, filed on even date, herewith, are incorporated by reference: USSN _____, (Attorney Docket No. 11998US01), "Echo Canceller Employing Dual-H Architecture Having Improved Double-Talk Detection"; USSN _____, (Attorney Docket No. 11999US01), "Echo Canceller Employing Dual-H Architecture Having Improved Non-Linear Echo Path Detection"; USSN _____, (Attorney Docket No. 12000US01), "Echo Canceller Employing Dual-H Architecture Having Variable Adaptive Gain Settings"; USSN _____, (Attorney Docket No. 12001US01), "Echo Canceller Employing Dual-H Architecture Having Improved Non-Linear Processor"; USSN _____, (Attorney Docket No. 12002US01), "Echo Canceller Employing Dual-H Architecture Having Split Adaptive Gain Settings."

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH
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Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Long distance telephone facilities usually comprise four-wire transmission circuits between switching offices in different local exchange areas, and two-wire circuits within each area connecting individual subscribers with the

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switching office. A call between subscribers in different exchange areas is carried over a two-wire circuit in each of the areas and a four-wire circuit between the areas, with conversion of speech energy between the two and four-wire circuits being effected by hybrid circuits. Ideally, the hybrid circuit input ports perfectly match the impedances of the two and four-wire circuits, and its balanced network impedance perfectly matches the impedance of the two-wire circuit. In this manner, the signals transmitted from one exchange area to the other will not be reflected or returned to the one area as echo. Unfortunately, due to impedance differences which inherently exist between different two and four-wire circuits, and because impedances must be matched at each frequency in the voice band, it is virtually impossible for a given hybrid circuit to perfectly match the impedances of any particular two and four-wire transmission circuit. Echo is, therefore, characteristically part of a long distance telephone system.

Although undesirable, echo is tolerable in a telephone system so long as the time delay in the echo path is relatively short, for example, shorter than about 40 milliseconds. However, longer echo delays can be distracting or utterly confusing to a far end speaker, and to reduce the same to a tolerable level an echo canceller may be used toward each end of the path to cancel echo which otherwise would return to the far end speaker. As is known, echo cancellers monitor the signals on the receive channel of a four-wire circuit and generate estimates of the actual echoes expected to return over the transmit channel. The echo estimates are then applied to a subtractor circuit in the transmit channel to

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remove or at least reduce the actual echo.

In simplest form, generation of an echo estimate comprises obtaining individual samples of the signal on the receive channel, convolving the samples with the impulse response of the system and then subtracting, at the appropriate time, the resulting products or echo estimates from the actual echo on the transmit channel. In actual practice generation of an echo estimate is not nearly so straightforward.

Transmission circuits, except those which are purely resistive, exhibit an impulse response that has amplitude and phase dispersive characteristics that are frequency dependent, since phase shift and amplitude attenuation vary with frequency. To this end, a suitable known technique for generating an echo estimate contemplates manipulating representations of a plurality of samples of signals which cause the echo and samples of impulse responses of the system through a convolution process to obtain an echo estimate which reasonably represents the actual echo expected on the echo path. One such system is illustrated in FIG. 1.

In the system illustrated in FIG. 1, a far end signal x from a remote telephone system is received locally at line 10. As a result of the previously noted imperfections in the local system, a portion of the signal x is echoed back to the remote site at line 15 along with the signal v from the local telephone system. The echo response is illustrated here as a signal s corresponding to the following equation:

$$s = x * h$$

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where h is the impulse response of the echo characteristics. As such, the signal sent from the near end to the far end, absent echo cancellation, is the signal y , which is the sum of the telephone signal v and the echo signal s . This signal is illustrated as y at line 15 of FIG. 1.

To reduce and/or eliminate the echo signal component s from the signal y , the system of FIG. 1 uses an echo canceller having an impulse response filter \bar{h} that is the estimate of the impulse echo response h . As such, a further signal \bar{s} representing an estimate of echo signal s is generated by the echo canceller in accordance with the following equation:

$$\bar{s} = \bar{h} * x$$

The echo canceller subtracts the echo estimate signal \bar{s} from the signal s to generate a signal e at line 20 that is returned to the far end telephone system. The signal e thus corresponds to the following equation:

$$e = s + v - \bar{s} \approx v$$

As such, the signal returned to the far end station is dominated by the signal v of the near end telephone system. As the echo impulse response \bar{h} more closely correlates to the actual echo response h , then \bar{s} more closely approximates s and thus the magnitude of the echo signal component s on the signal e is more substantially reduced.

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The echo impulse response model \bar{h} may be replaced by an adaptive digital filter having an impulse response \hat{h} . Generally, the tap coefficients for such an adaptive response filter are found using a technique known as Normalized Least Mean Squares adaptation, although other Mean Squares processes may also be used (e.g., RLS, NLMS, etc.).

Although such an adaptive echo canceller architecture provides the echo canceller with the ability to readily adapt to changes in the echo path response h , it is highly susceptible to generating sub-optimal echo cancellation responses in the presence of "double talk" (a condition that occurs when both the speaker at the far end and the speaker at the near end are speaking concurrently as determined from the viewpoint of the echo canceller).

To reduce this sensitivity to double-talk conditions, it has been suggested to use both a non-adaptive response and an adaptive response filter in a single echo canceller. One such echo canceller is described in USPN 3,787,645, issued to Ochiai et al on January 22, 1974. Such an echo canceller is now commonly referred to as a dual-H echo canceller.

Although the dual-H echo canceller architecture of the '645 patent provides substantial improvements over the use of a single filter response architecture, the '645 patent is deficient in many respects and lacks certain teachings for optimizing the use of such a dual-H architecture in a practical echo canceller system. The present inventors have recognized the problems

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associated with the foregoing dual-H architecture and have provided solutions to these problems.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An echo canceller circuit for use in an echo canceller system is set forth.

The echo canceller circuit comprises a first digital filter having non-adaptive tap coefficients to simulate an echo response occurring during a call. A second digital filter having adaptive tap coefficients to simulate an echo response occurring during the call is also used. The adaptive tap coefficients of the second digital filter are updated over the duration of the call. A coefficient transfer controller is disposed in the echo canceller circuit to transfer the adaptive tap coefficients of the second digital filter to replace the tap coefficients of the first digital filter when a value, \hat{E} , is greater than a value, \bar{E} , and, concurrently, when \hat{E} is greater than a value, E_{\max} . The value of \bar{E} corresponds to the ratio between a signal-plus-echo signal and a first echo compensated signal using the first digital filter. The value of \hat{E} corresponds to the ratio between the signal-plus-echo signal and a second echo compensated signal using the second digital filter. The value of E_{\max} corresponds to the largest \hat{E} experienced over at least a portion of the duration of the call at which a transfer occurred.

A method for transferring tap coefficients between an adaptive digital filter and a non-adaptive digital filter of a dual-H echo canceller during a call is also set forth. According to the method, a comparison is made between the value of \hat{E} and the value of \bar{E} . Further, a comparison is also made between

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the value of \hat{E} the value of E_{\max} . Transfer of the adaptive tap coefficients of the adaptive digital filter to replace the tap coefficients of the non-adaptive digital filter occurs when \hat{E} is greater than \bar{E} and, concurrently, \hat{E} is greater than E_{\max} .

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL
VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a conventional canceller.

Figure 2 is a schematic block diagram of an echo canceller that operates in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a flow chart illustrating one manner of carrying out coefficient transfers in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a flow chart illustrating a further manner of carrying out coefficient transfers in accordance with a further embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 illustrates one manner of implementing an echo canceller system employing the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 2 illustrates one embodiment of a dual-h echo canceller suitable for use in implementing the present invention. As illustrated, the echo canceller, shown generally at 25, includes both a non-adaptive filter \bar{h} and an adaptive filter \hat{h} to model the echo response h . Each of the filters \bar{h} and \hat{h} are preferably implemented as digital filters, such as finite impulse response (FIR) filters comprising a plurality of taps each having a corresponding tap coefficient. This concept may be extended to IIR filters as well. If FIR filters are used, the duration of each of the FIR filters should be sufficient to cover the duration of the echo response of the channel in which the echo canceller 25 is disposed.

The output of the non-adaptive filter \bar{h} is available at the line 30 while the output of the adaptive filter \hat{h} is available at line 35. Each of the signals at lines 30 and 35 are subtracted from the signal-plus-echo signal of line 40 to generate echo compensated signals at lines 50 and 55, respectively. A switch 45, preferably a software switch, may be used to selectively provide either the output signal at the line 50 or the output signal at line 55 to the echo canceller output at line 60. The switch 45 may be used to provide the echo compensation based on the \hat{h} filter during convergence and then be switched to provide the echo compensation based on the \bar{h} filter after convergence. Further, the switch 45 is directed to provide the echo compensation based on the \bar{h} filter in response to the detection of a double-talk condition.

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A transfer controller 65 is used to transfer the tap coefficients of filter \hat{h} to replace the tap coefficients of filter \bar{h} . As illustrated, the transfer controller 65 is connected to receive a number of system input signals. Of particular import with respect to the present invention, the transfer controller 65 receives the signal-plus-echo response y and each of the echo canceller signals \bar{e} and \hat{e} at lines 50 and 55, respectively. The transfer controller 65 is preferably implemented in the software of one or more digital signal processors used to implement the echo canceller 25.

As noted above, the art is substantially deficient of teachings with respect to the manner in which and conditions under which a transfer of tap coefficients from \hat{h} to \bar{h} is to occur. The present inventors have implemented a new process and, as such, a new echo canceller in which tap coefficient transfers are only made by the transfer controller 65 when selected criterion are met. The resulting echo canceller 25 has substantial advantages with respect to reduced double-talk sensitivity and increased double-talk detection capability. Further, it ensures a monotonic improvement in the estimates \bar{h} .

The foregoing system uses a parameter known as echo-return-loss-enhancement (ERLE) to measure and keep track of system performance. Two ERLE parameter values are used in the determination as to whether the transfer controller 65 transfers the tap coefficients from \hat{h} to \bar{h} . The first parameter, \bar{E} , is defined in the following manner:

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$$\bar{E} = \frac{y}{\bar{e}}$$

Similarly, the parameter \hat{E} is defined as follows:

$$\hat{E} = \frac{y}{\hat{e}}$$

Each of the values \hat{E} and \bar{E} may also be averaged over a predetermined number of samples to arrive at averaged \hat{E} and \bar{E} values used in the system for the transfer determinations.

Figure 3 illustrates one manner of implementing the echo canceller 25 using the parameters \hat{E} and \bar{E} to control tap coefficients transfers between filter \hat{h} to \bar{h} . As illustrated, the echo canceller 25 provides a default \bar{h} set of coefficients at step 80 during the initial portions of the call. After the tap coefficients values for \bar{h} have been set, a measure of \bar{E} is made at step 85 to measure the performance of the tap coefficient values of filter \bar{h} .

After the initialization sequence of steps 80 and 85, or concurrent therewith, the echo canceller 25 begins and continues to adapt the coefficients of \hat{h} to more adequately match the echo response h of the overall system. As noted in Figure 3, this operation occurs at step 90. Preferably, the adaptation is made using a Normalized Least Mean Squares method, although other adaptive methods may also be used (e.g., LMS and RLS).

After a period of time has elapsed, preferably, a predetermined minimum

period of time, the echo canceller 25 makes a measure of \hat{E} at step 95.

Preferably, this measurement is an averaged measurement. At step 100, the echo canceller 25 compares the value of \hat{E} with the value of \bar{E} . If the value of \hat{E} is greater than the value of \bar{E} , the tap coefficients of filter \hat{h} are transferred to replace the tap coefficients of filter \bar{h} at step 105. If this criterion is not met, however, the echo canceller 25 will continue to adapt the coefficients of the adaptive filter \hat{h} at step 90, periodically measure the value of \hat{E} at step 95, and make the comparison of step 100 until the condition is met.

Although not illustrated, other transfer conditions may be imposed in addition to the foregoing. For example, the echo canceller may impose a requirement that a far end signal exist before a transfer may occur. Additionally, transfers may be inhibited during a double-talk condition. Further conditions may also be imposed based on system requirements.

If the echo canceller 25 finds that \hat{E} is greater than \bar{E} , the above-noted transfer takes place. Additionally, the echo canceller 25 stores the value of \hat{E} as a value E_{\max} . This operation is depicted at step 110 of the Figure 3. The value of E_{\max} is thus the maximum value of ERLE that occurs over the duration of the call and at which a transfer has taken place. This further value is used thereafter, in addition to the \hat{E} and \bar{E} comparison, to control whether the tap coefficients of \hat{h} are transferred by the transfer controller 65 to replace the tap coefficients of \bar{h} . This further process is illustrated that steps 115, 120, and 125 of Figure 3. In

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each instance, the tap coefficient transfer only occurs when both of the following two conditions are met: 1) \hat{E} is greater than the current \bar{E} , and 2) \hat{E} is greater than any previous value of \bar{E} used during the course of the call. (\hat{E} is greater than E_{\max}). Each time that both criteria are met, the transfer controller 65 of echo canceller 25 executes the tap coefficient transfer and replaces the previous E_{\max} value with the current \hat{E} value for future comparison.

Requiring that \hat{E} be greater than any \bar{E} value used over the course of the call before the coefficient transfer takes place has two beneficial and desirable effects. First, each transfer is likely to replace the prior tap coefficients of filter \bar{h} with a better estimate of the echo path response. Second, this transfer requirement increases the double-talk protection of the echo canceller system.

Although it is possible to have positive ERLE \hat{E} during double-talk, the probability that \hat{E} is greater than E_{\max} during double-talk decreases as the value of E_{\max} increases. Thus an undesirable coefficient transfer during double-talk becomes increasingly unlikely as the value of E_{\max} increases throughout the duration of the call.

The echo canceller 25 may impose both an upper boundary and a lower boundary on the value of E_{\max} . For example, E_{\max} may have a lower bounded value of 6 dB and an upper bounded value of 24 dB. The purpose of the lower bound is to prevent normal transfers during double-talk conditions. It has been shown in simulations using speech inputs that during double-talk, a value of

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greater than 6 dB ERLE was a very low probability event, thus making it an appropriate value for the initial value of E_{\max} . The upper bound on E_{\max} is used to prevent a spuriously high measurement from setting E_{\max} to a value at which further transfers become impossible.

The value of E_{\max} should be set to, for example, the lower bound value at the beginning of each call. Failure to do so will prevent tap coefficient transfers on a new call until the echo cancellation response of the echo canceller 25 on the new call surpasses the quality of the response existing at the end of the prior call. However, this criterion may never be met during the subsequent call. Thereby causing the echo canceller 25 to operate using sub-optimal tap coefficients values. Resetting the E_{\max} value to a lower value increases the likelihood that a tap coefficient transfer will take place and, thereby, assists in ensuring that the \bar{h} filter uses tap coefficients for echo cancellation that more closely correspond to the echo path response of the new call.

One manner of implementing the E_{\max} value change is illustrated in the echo canceller operations flow-chart of Figure 4. When all transfer conditions are met except \hat{E} greater than E_{\max} , and this condition persists for a predetermined duration of time, the echo canceller 25 will reset the E_{\max} value to, for example, the lower bound value. In the exemplary operations shown in Figure 4, the echo canceller 25 determines whether \hat{E} is greater than the lower bound of E_{\max} at step 140 and less than the current value of E_{\max} at step 145. If

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both of these condition remain true for a predetermined period of time as determined at step 150, and all other transfer criterion have been met, the echo canceller 25 resets the E_{\max} value to a lower value, for example, the lower bound of the E_{\max} value, at step 155. This lowering of the E_{\max} value increases the likelihood of a subsequent tap coefficient transfer.

Choosing values for the lower and upper bound of E_{\max} other than 6 dB and 24 dB, respectively, is also possible in the present system. Choosing a lower bound of E_{\max} smaller than 6 dB provides for a relatively prompt tap coefficient transfer after a reset operation or a new call, but sacrifices some double-talk protection. A value greater than 6 dB, however, inhibits tap coefficient transfer for a longer period of time, but increases the double-talk immunity of the echo canceller. Similarly, varying the value of the predetermined wait time T before which E_{\max} is reset may also be used to adjust echo canceller performance. A shorter predetermined wait time T produces faster reconvergence transfers, but may sacrifice some double-talk immunity. The opposite is true for larger predetermined wait time values.

A further modification of the foregoing echo canceller system relates to the value stored as E_{\max} at the instant of tap coefficient transfer. Instead of setting E_{\max} equal to the \hat{E} value at the transfer instant, E_{\max} may be set to a value equal to the value of \hat{E} minus a constant value (e.g., one, three, or 6 dB). At no time, however, should the E_{\max} value be set to a value that is below the lower bound value for E_{\max} . Additionally, a further condition may be imposed in

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that a new softened E_{\max} is not less than the prior value of E_{\max} . The foregoing "softening" of the E_{\max} value increases the number of transfers that occur and, further, provides more decision-making weight to the condition of \hat{E} being larger than \bar{E} .

As will be readily recognized, the echo canceller of the present invention may be implemented in a wide range of manners. Preferably, the echo canceller system is implemented using one or more digital signal processors to carry out the filter and transfer operations. Digital-to-analog conversions of various signals are carried out in accordance with known techniques for use by the digital signal processors.

There are some circumstances when the foregoing transfer criterion should be defeated. For example, the transfer criterion is preferably defeated when 1) the long-term *ERLE* remains low, and 2) a small but measurable performance advantage of \hat{h} over \bar{h} is sustained over a long period of time.

One case in which it should be defeated is when the steady-state *ERLE* remains below the lower value of E_{\max} . Such a case may occur when there is a high-level, constant background noise entering from the near-end. Since the foregoing process prevents transfers from occurring unless the *ERLE* is greater than the lower bound of E_{\max} , no transfers are possible in low *ERLE* situations. Since the \bar{h} may contain the solution to a previous call at the start of a new, low *ERLE* call, defeating the foregoing transfer criterion is preferable in some

cases.

The first condition for defeating the foregoing transfer criterion is a sustained low *ERLE* measurement over a relatively long period of time (e.g. 150 to 500 msec) of adaptation. Since a low *ERLE* call will tend to have a smaller difference between the *ERLE*s of \bar{h} and \hat{h} (a 1 dB difference may be the largest difference observed), the required *ERLE* difference between \hat{h} and \bar{h} for a transfer to occur should be reduced (e.g. to 0 or 1 dB) once the long-term *ERLE* is confirmed to be low. To compensate, a requirement may be imposed whereby the small *ERLE* difference between \bar{h} and \hat{h} is maintained for a long period of time (e.g. 75 to 200 msec) before the transfer is allowed.

Figure 5 illustrates one embodiment of an echo canceller system, shown generally at 700, that maybe used to cancel echoes in multi-channel communication transmissions. As illustrated, the system 700 includes an input 705 that is connected to receive a multi-channel communications data, such as a T1 transmission. A central controller 710 deinterleaves the various channels of the transmission and provides them to respective convolution processors 715 over a data bus 720. It is within the convolution processors 715 that a majority of the foregoing operations take place. Each convolution processor 715 is designed to process at least one channel of the transmission at line 730. After each convolution processor 715 has processed its respective channel(s), the resulting data is placed on the data bus 720. The central controller 710 multiplexes the

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data into the proper multichannel format (e.g., T1) for retransmission at line 735. User interface 740 is provided to set various user programmable parameters of the system.

Numerous modifications may be made to the foregoing system without departing from the basic teachings thereof. Although the present invention has been described in substantial detail with reference to one or more specific embodiments, those of skill in the art will recognize that changes may be made thereto without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. An echo canceller circuit comprising:
 - a first digital filter having non-adaptive tap coefficients to simulate an echo response occurring during a call;
 - a second digital filter having adaptive tap coefficients to simulate an echo response occurring during the call, the adaptive tap coefficients being updated during the call;
 - a coefficient transfer controller disposed to transfer the adaptive tap coefficients of the second digital filter to replace the tap coefficients of the first digital filter when \hat{E} is greater than \bar{E} and, concurrently, \hat{E} is greater than E_{\max} , wherein \bar{E} corresponds to the ratio between a signal-plus-echo signal and a first echo compensated signal using the first digital filter, \hat{E} corresponds to the ratio between the signal-plus-echo signal and a second echo compensated signal using the second digital filter, and E_{\max} corresponds to the largest \hat{E} value experienced over at least a portion of the duration of the call during which a transfer occurred.

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2. An echo canceller circuit as claimed in claim 1 and further comprising:
a first summer circuit for subtracting a filtered output signal of the first digital filter from the signal-plus-echo signal to generate the first echo compensated signal; and
a second summer circuit for subtracting a filtered output signal of the second digital filter from the signal-plus-echo signal to generate the second echo compensated signal.
3. An echo canceller as claimed in claim 2 and further comprising a switch for selectively providing either the first echo compensated signal or the second echo compensated signal to an output of an echo canceller.
4. An echo canceller as claimed in claim 1 wherein the value of E_{\max} is lowered if a transfer of coefficients has not taken place within a predetermined period of time.
5. An echo canceller comprising:
at least one input for receiving a far-end signal of a call;

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at least one input for receiving a signal-plus-echo signal of the call, the
signal-plus-echo signal having a signal component corresponding
to an echo response of a transmission medium carrying the call;
a first digital filter receiving the far-end signal and having non-adaptive
tap coefficients to simulate the echo response;
a summer circuit for subtracting the filtered far-end output signal of the
first digital filter from the signal-plus-echo signal to generate an
echo compensated signal for transmission to a far-end;
a second digital filter receiving the far-end signal and having adaptive
tap coefficients to simulate the echo response, the adaptive tap
coefficients being updated during the call;
a coefficient transfer controller disposed to transfer the adaptive tap
coefficients of the second digital filter to replace the tap
coefficients of the first digital filter when \hat{E} is greater than \bar{E}
and, concurrently, \hat{E} is greater than E_{\max} , wherein \bar{E}
corresponds to the ratio between a signal-plus-echo signal and a
first echo compensated signal using the first digital filter, \hat{E}
corresponds to the ratio between the signal-plus-echo signal and a
second echo compensated signal using the second digital filter,
and E_{\max} corresponds to the largest \hat{E} value experienced over
at least a portion of the duration of the call.

6. An echo canceller as claimed in claim 5 wherein the value of E_{\max} is lowered if a transfer of coefficients has not taken place within a predetermined period of time.
7. A method for transferring tap coefficients between an adaptive digital filter and a non-adaptive digital filter of a dual-H echo canceller during a call comprising the steps of:
comparing a first value \hat{E} with a second value \bar{E} , where \bar{E} corresponds to the ratio between a signal-plus-echo signal and a first echo compensated signal using the non-adaptive digital filter of the echo canceller and wherein \hat{E} corresponds to the ratio between the signal-plus-echo signal and a second echo compensated signal using the adaptive digital filter of the echo canceller;
comparing the value of \hat{E} to a third value, E_{\max} , wherein E_{\max} corresponds to the largest \hat{E} value experienced over at least a portion of the duration of the call for which a transfer occurred;
transferring the adaptive tap coefficients of the adaptive digital filter to replace the tap coefficients of the non-adaptive digital filter when

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the value of \hat{E} is greater than the value of \bar{E} and, concurrently,
the value of \hat{E} is greater than the value of E_{\max} .

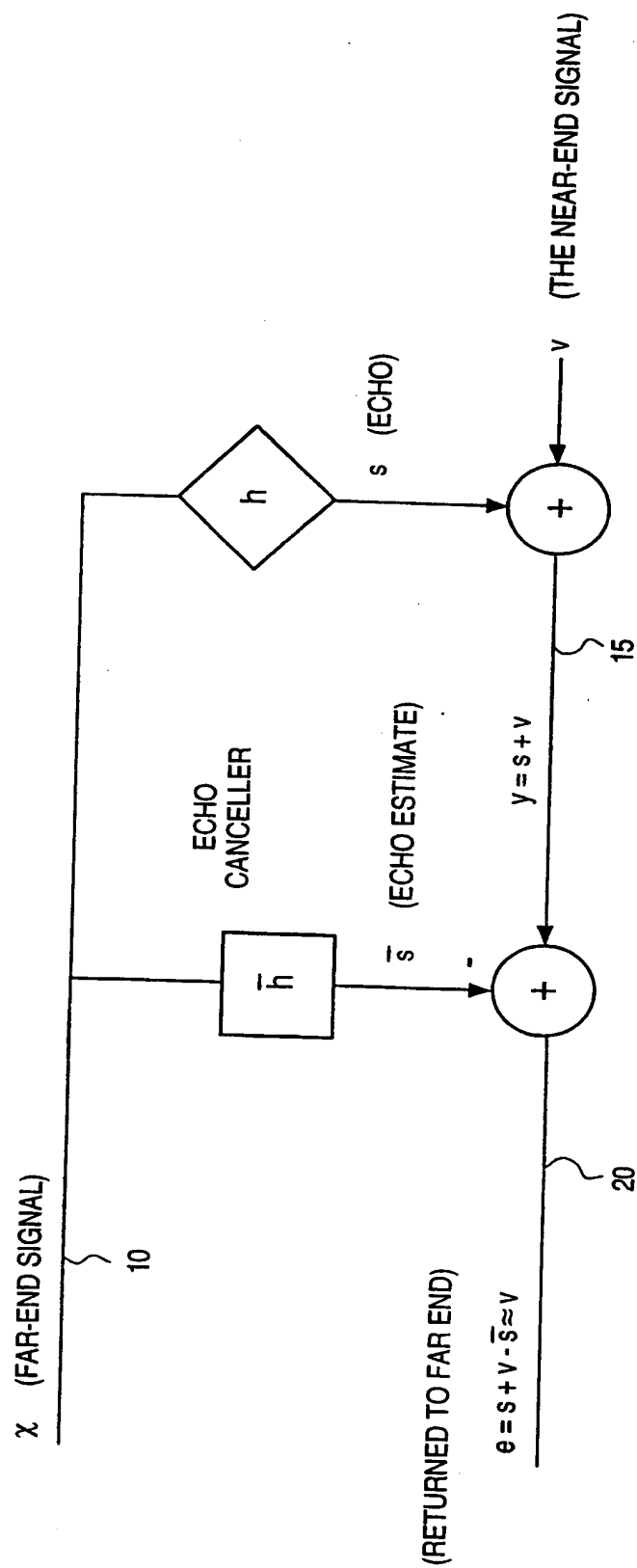
8. A method as claimed in claim 7 and further comprising the step of lowering value of E_{\max} if a transfer of coefficients has not taken place within a predetermined period of time.
9. An echo canceller circuit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the value of \hat{E} is an averaged value.
10. An echo canceller circuit as claimed in claim 1 wherein the value of \bar{E} is an averaged value.
11. An echo canceller as claimed in claim 5 wherein the value of \hat{E} is an averaged value.
12. An echo canceller as claimed in claim 5 wherein the value of \bar{E} is an averaged value.

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13. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the value of \hat{E} is an averaged value.
14. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the value of \bar{E} is an averaged value.

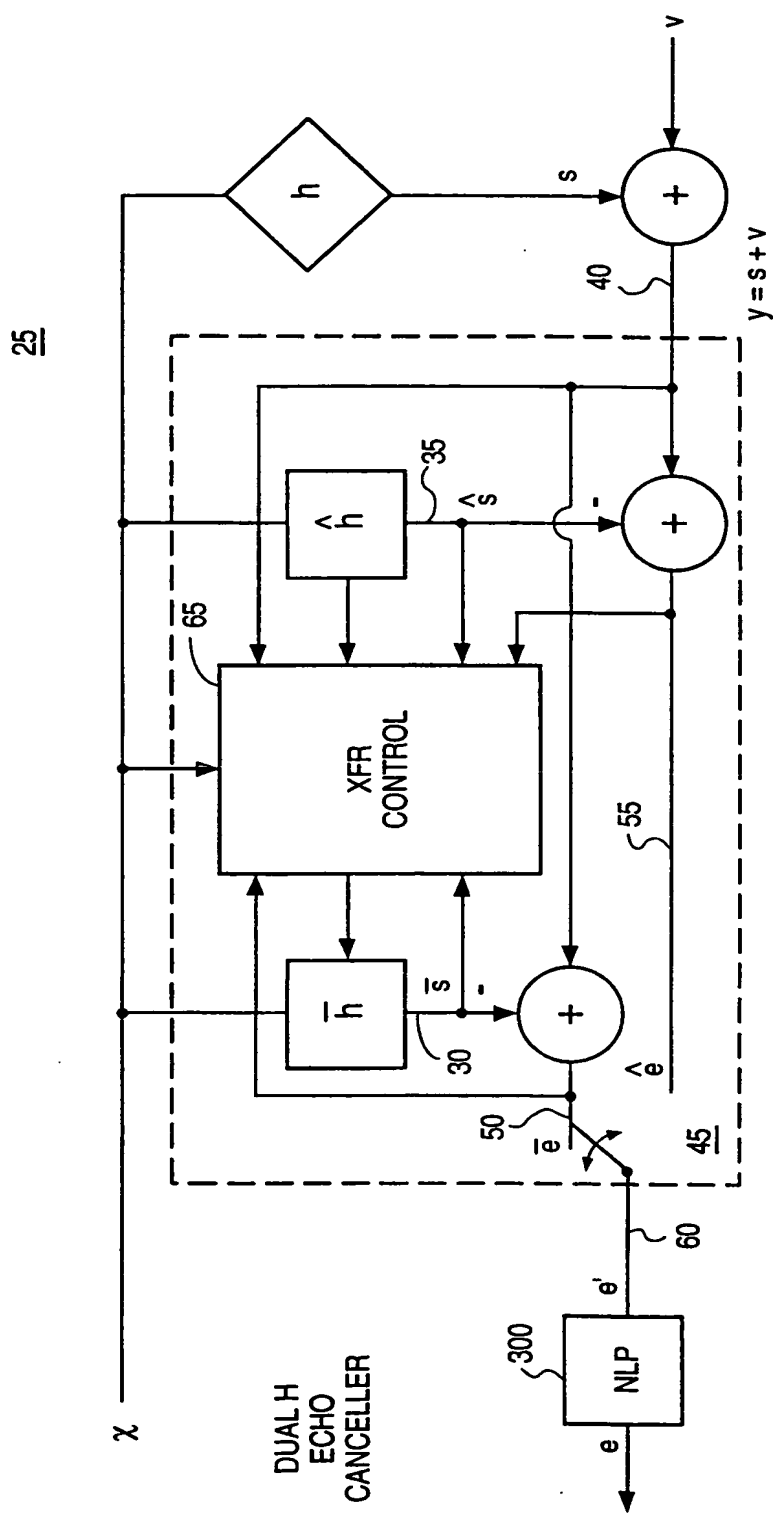
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FIG. 1



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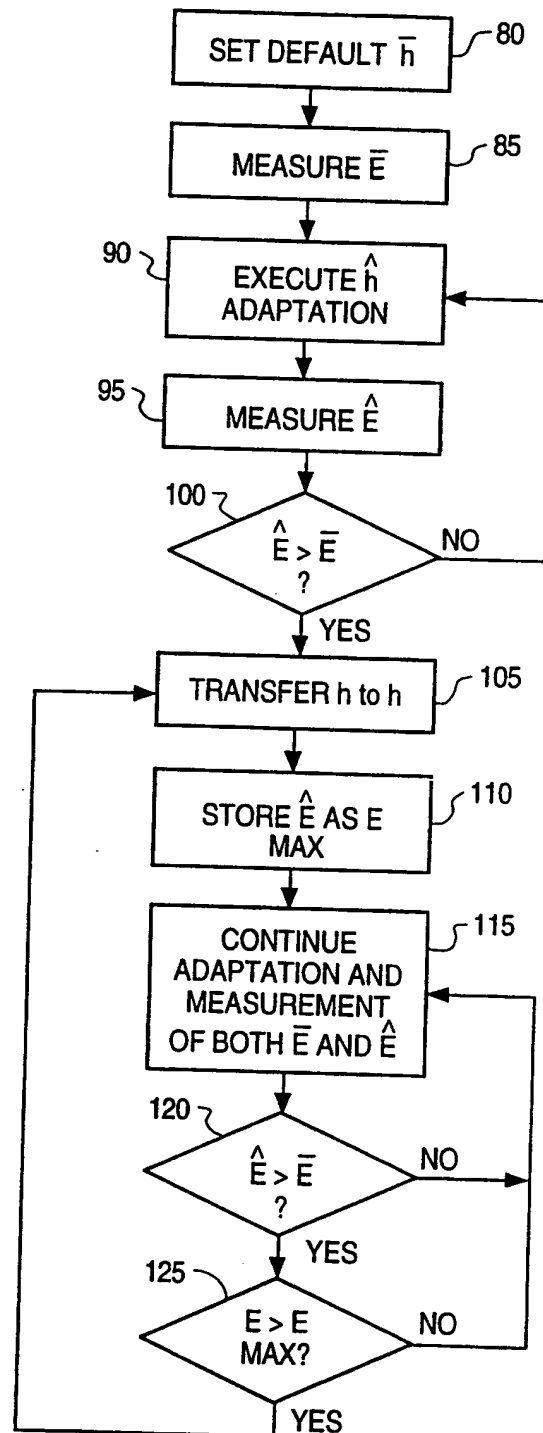
FIG. 2



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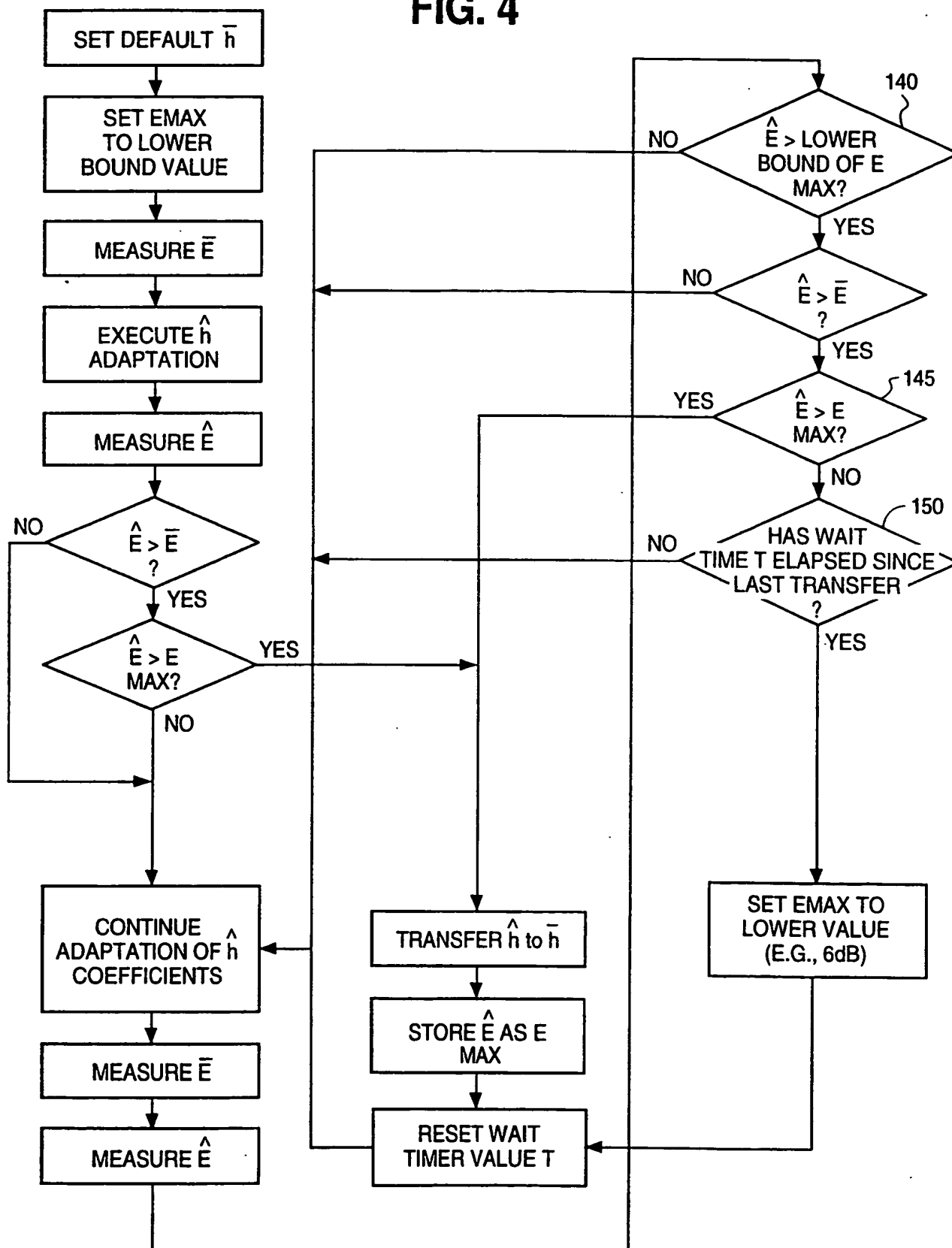
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FIG. 3



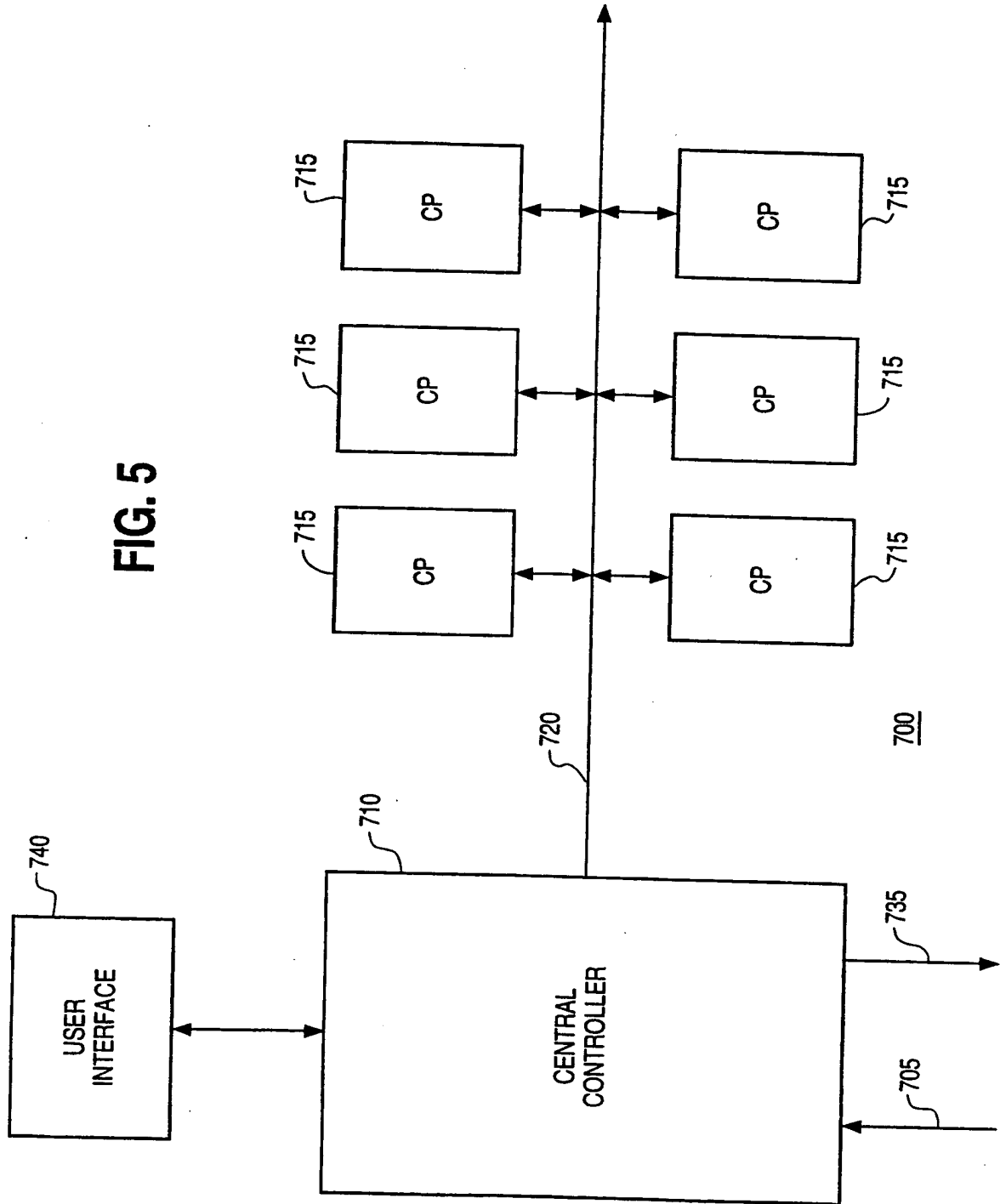
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FIG. 4



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FIG. 5



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.
 PCT/US98/24212

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(6) : H04M 9/00; H03B 3/20 US CL : 379/406, 410, 411, 407, 408, 409, 345; 370/287, 290, 291 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 379/406, 410, 411, 407, 408, 409, 345; 370/287, 290, 291 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) APS		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,787,645 A (OCHIAI et al.) 22 January 1974	1-14
A	US 5,274,705 A (YOUNCE et al.) 28 December 1993	1-14
A	US 5,664,011 A (CROCHIERE et al.) 02 September 1997	1-14
A	US 4,918,727 A (ROHRS et al.) 17 April 1990	1-14
A	US 5,644,635 A (ARMBRUSTER) 01 July 1997	1-14
A, P	US 5,745,564 A (MEEK) 28 April 1998	1-14
A, P	US 5,796,819 A (ROMESBURG) 18 August 1998	1-14
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *B* earlier document published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art *A* document member of the same patent family	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 JANUARY 1999		Date of mailing of the international search report 12 APR 1999
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer JACQUES M. SAINT-SURN <i>Joni Hill</i> Telephone No. (703) 305-4760

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/24212

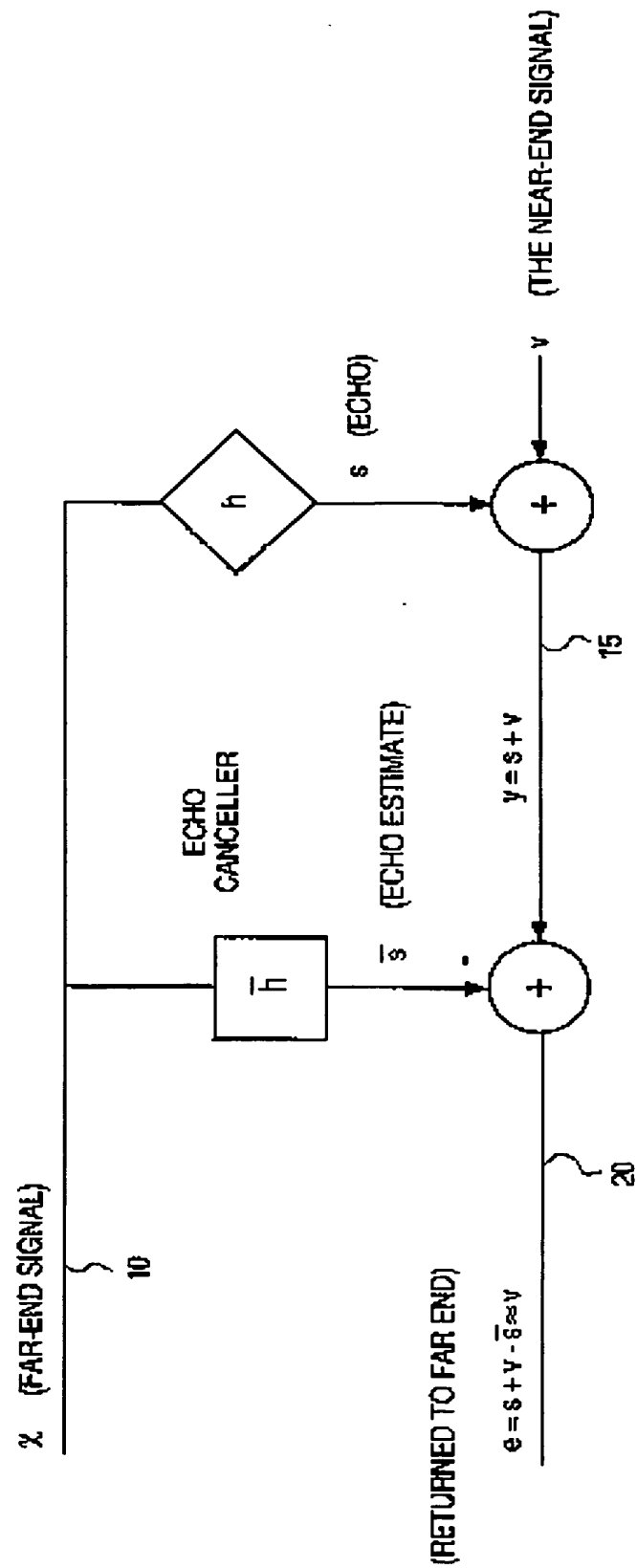
C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 5,828,756 A (BENESTY et al.) 27 October 1998	1-14
A	US 5,663,955 A (IYENGAR) 02 September 1997	1-14
A, P	US 5,812,537 A (BETTS et al.) 22 September 1998	1-14

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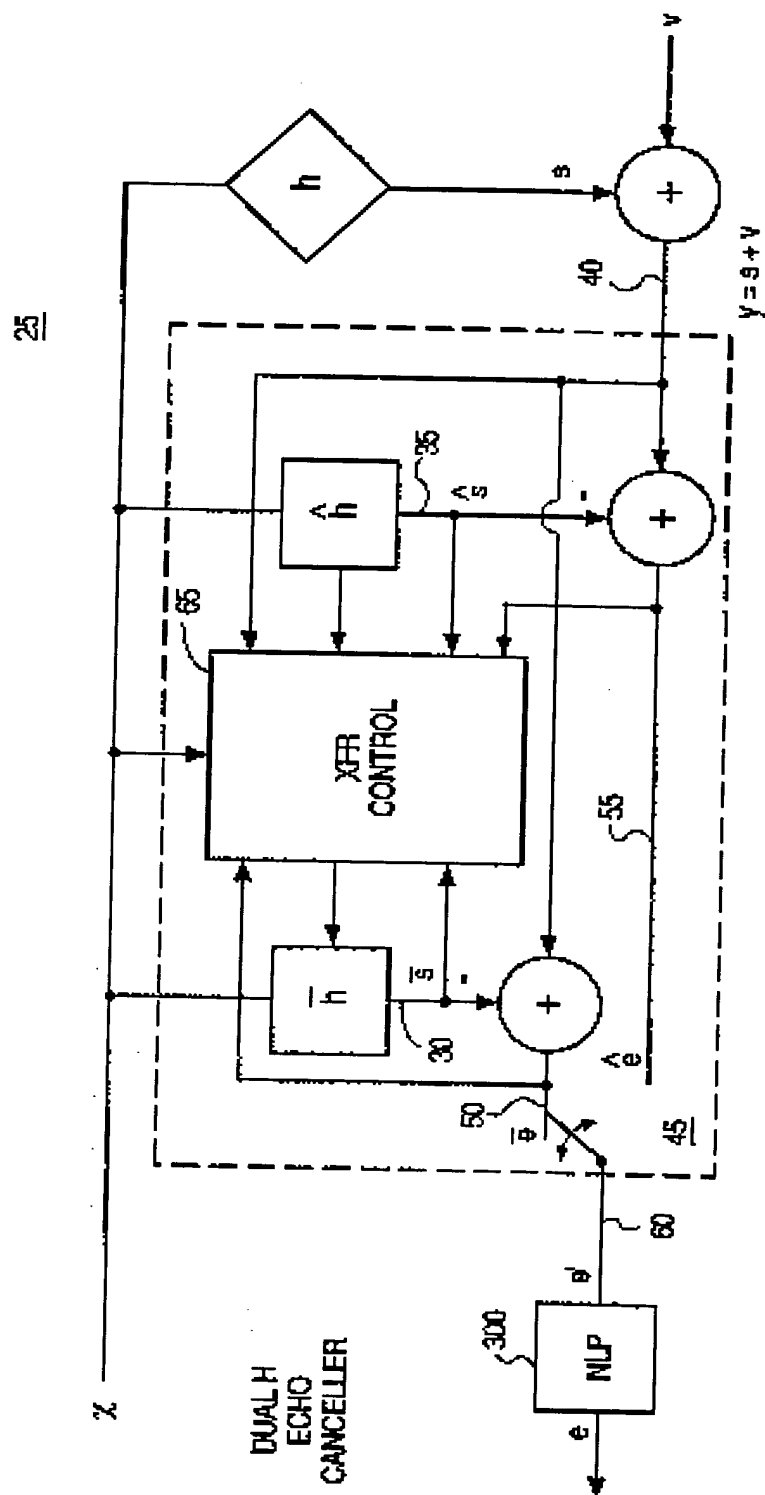
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FIG. 1



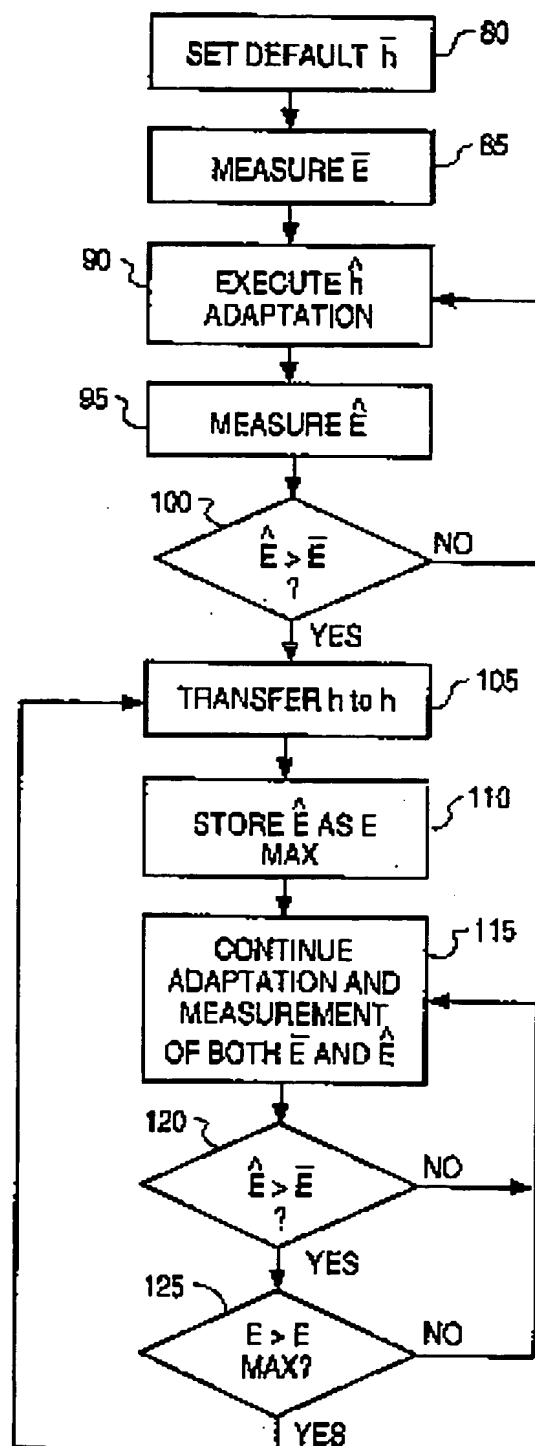
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FIG. 2



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FIG. 3



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FIG. 4

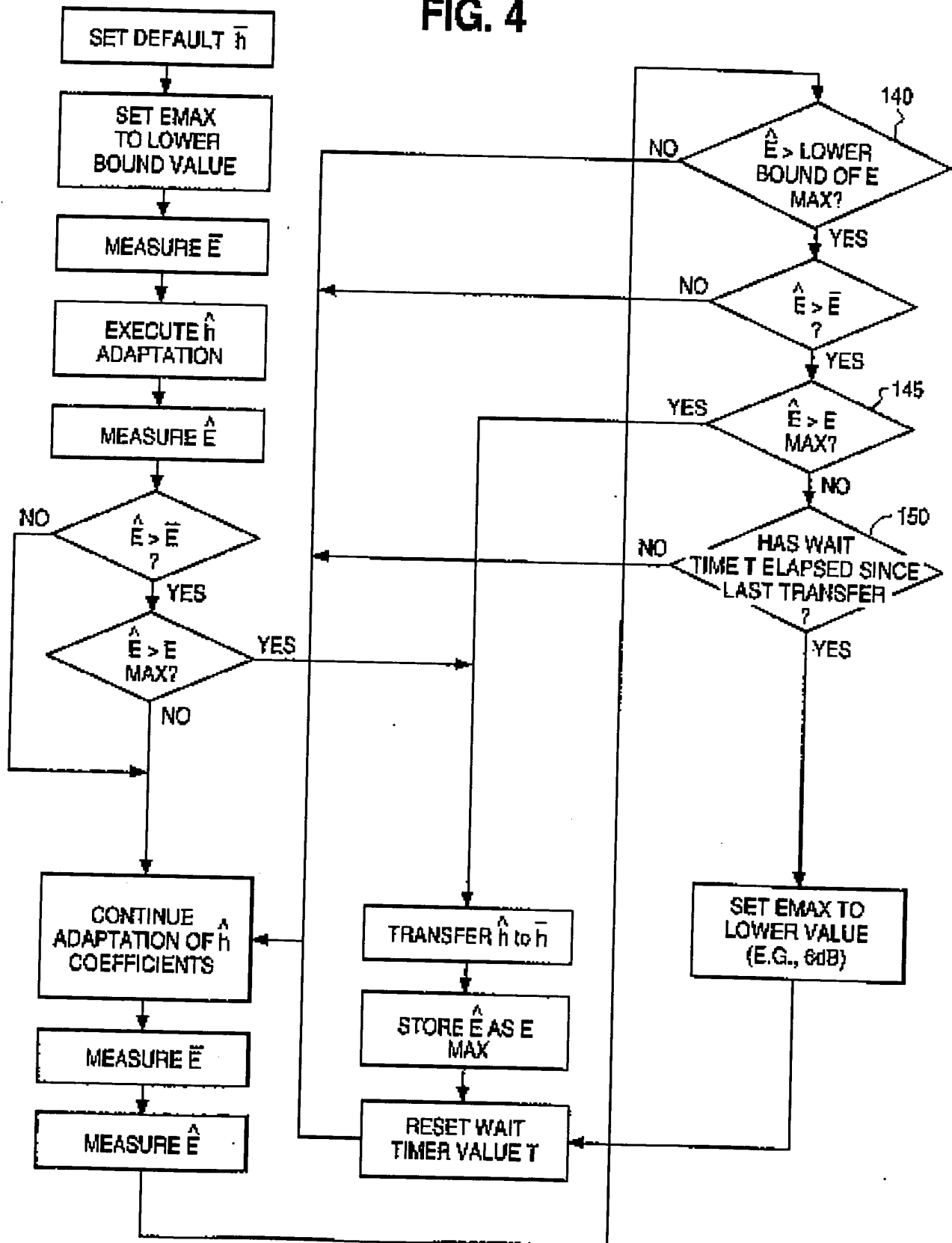
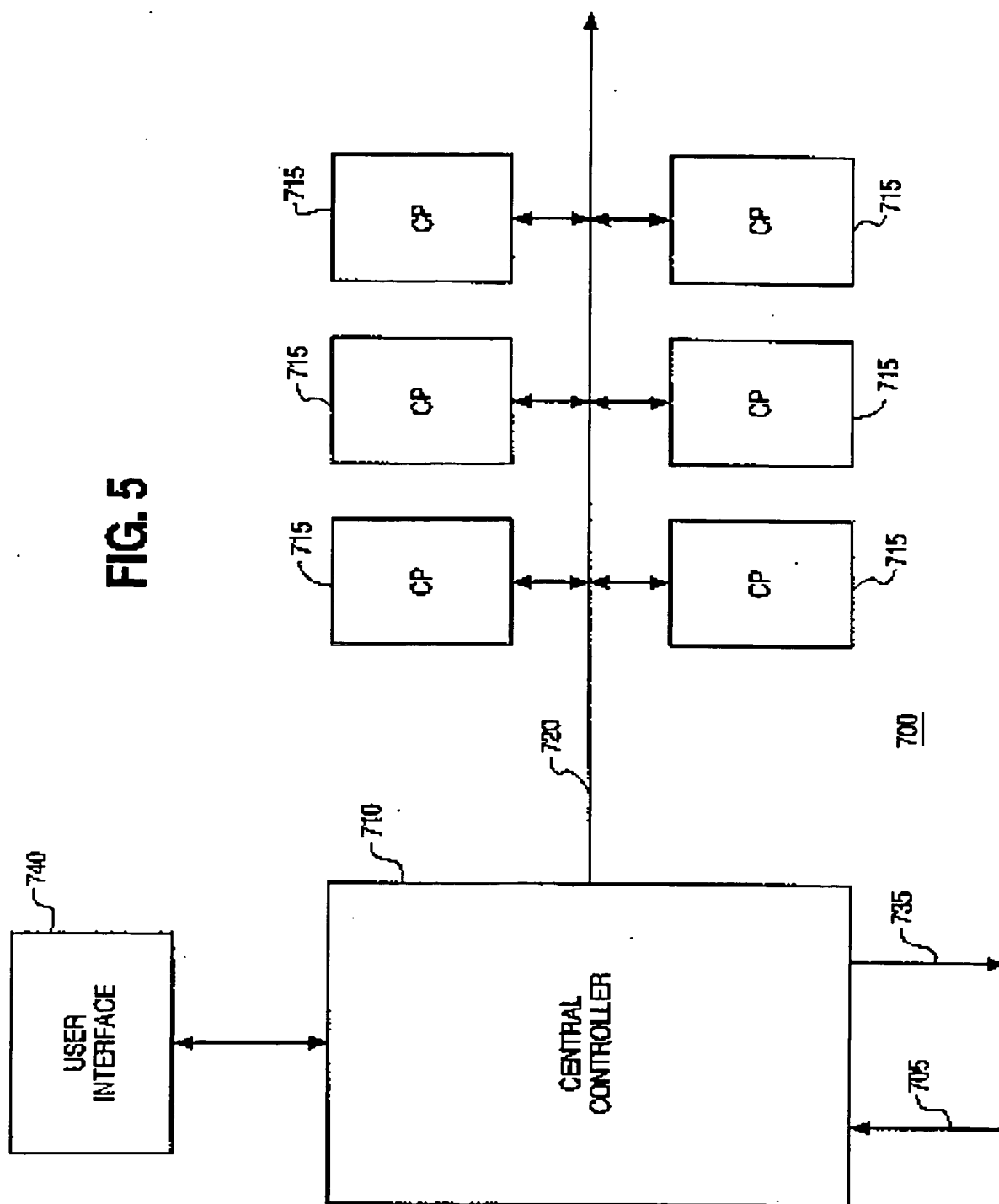


FIG. 5



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